

### DRA, INC. How to Engage a Landlord

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### WELCOME and Introductions



Del Richardson & Associates, Inc., "DRA" is a private, forprofit company that provides a full range of Public Affairs, Right of Way and Community Outreach Services to public and private agencies.

In an effort to help increase the housing opportunities for Section 8 Voucher Holders throughout LA County, DRA has been contracted by HACoLA to launch a pilot program for the benefit of both Tenant and Landlord.

#### Who We Are:

- Del Richardson & Associates, Inc. (DRA); Established in 1990
- List of Services: Public Affairs, Right-of-Way, Housing Programs,
   Workforce Development, and Acquisition Services
- Contracted by the Department of Veteran Affairs
- Contracted by St. Joseph Center for their Rapid RehousingProgram
- Housing Locators' Purpose:
  - □ HUD-VASH: To house 727 USA Veterans by July 31, 2016
  - St. Joseph Center: Assist 118 Homeless Individuals in LA
     County located suitable housing.

## DRA's Philosophy

"Mental Illness is not contagious.
You can't catch it by being kind"

-- Unknown

#### DRA's Philosophy:

- DRA's approach to engaging landlords to participate in Vouchered Housing Programs as well as participants with notable limitations, is centered around building a relationship with the landlord
- □ We highlight the benefits of utilizing the program and tenancy of the participants
- We insure that the landlord and the participant are a suitable match
- Address the landlord's concerns about the program and the participant
- □ We operate with integrity and honesty

## **Understanding Landlords**

- Small Landlords are the largest suppliers of Affordable housing in the country
- Rental housing is a business
- Landlords are looking to reduce risk
- Maximize return on investment
- Quality tenants
- Rent paid on time
- Property maintenance
- Avoid Nuisance

#### BUILDING AND MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS



- Supportíve Services
- -Communication
- Stay connected

- Provide accurate program particulars
  - Information provided by the Housing Locator/Case Manager upon engagement of the relationship is reinforced by actions
  - □ Landlords have great memories...they don't forget the good or the bad.
- Keep open lines of communication; create a system between the case manager and the landlord.
  - Provide contact information for the case managers in the event of an emergency
- Follow-up with the landlord/property manager
  - Call regularly to obtain status on the rental situation

## Landlord Selling Points/Services

--Steve Jobs

#### **Landlord Services they can expect:**

- Program Services:
  - Prescreened Tenants
  - Assistance in trouble shooting and tracking status with Housing Authority.
  - Personalized Feedback
- Program Benefits:
  - Free Listing Service of qualified participants
  - Tenant Matching with Direct Referral
  - Expedited Lease Up of Vacant Units
  - Reduced Cost / Guaranteed Rent
  - Repair subsidies available to Landlord upon exit of tenancy.

### Perceived Barriers

Problems do not go away. They must be worked through or else they remain, forever a barrier to growth and development.

A barrier is of ideas, not of things.

M. Scott Peck

### **Understanding and Overcoming Barriers**

#### **Tenant Barrier**

- Credit history
- Income source/employment
- Household size
- Money for security deposit
- Credit check fees
- Mental health

#### **Landlord Benefits**

- VIP program, express your gratitude and patriotism.
- Holding Fee Program: Rapid Rehousing
- Criminal records checked
- Rent guarantee
- Make allowances, payment plan, free credit reports.
- Support systems get acquainted with family members and case manager, understand illness and medical requirements.

## Networking by Appreciation

"Appreciation is the uptick in value of an asset over time."

- ~ Long-term relationships
- ~ Reinforce their value to the team.
- ~ WIN/WIN

- Maintain Your Relationship with your landlords
- Schedule Events centered around landlords and property management companies
  - Show your continued appreciation and support
  - Building New Relationships with landlords and property management companies
- Provide supportive resources for the landlords
  - Become interested in their property or apartment community
  - What are their immediate needs?
  - What are their goals for the future of their property or business? How can you assist them with achieving their short-term and long-term goals
- A simple "Thank you."
  - A way to say you appreciate their partnership and all that they do to assist you in housing participants.

# THANK YOU! DRA, INC.

